

those who died in the accident were an engineer and miner who selflessly rushed into the mine in the midst of the disaster in an effort to rescue others.

More than 100 years later, Alan Cote and Stephen Carkhuff perfectly encapsulate this spirit of impulsive heroism. After hearing the late-night crash, Cohen and Carkhuff raced toward the already burning vehicle without concern for their own safety and assisted in removing both unconscious passengers from the car. Their quick response helped ensure the safety of both passengers, both of whom survived.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to thank and congratulate these selfless and courageous men. Let their courage and heroism serve as an example for us all.

**HONORING THE TRAVIS KITCHEN
VFW POST 778 OF MILFORD, CON-
NECTICUT ON THE CELEBRATION
OF THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY**

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Travis Kitchen Veterans of Foreign War Post 778 in Milford, Connecticut as they mark their 75th Anniversary. As we mark this extraordinary milestone, I am honored to have this opportunity to extend my deepest thanks to the leadership and members of VFW Post 778 who work so diligently to both support our veterans and ensure that our community never forget the sacrifices made by those who chose to serve in our nation's military branches.

Named in honor of local veteran and founding member, Travis Kitchen, VFW Post 778 has long been a haven of support and comradeship for Milford area veterans. A veteran of the United States Army Air Force, Travis Kitchen served with honor during World War II, earning the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and the Bronze Star. He lost an eye at Iwo Jima and though, like so many other veterans, he never really spoke of his time in the service, when he returned home he was determined to help his brothers in arms. Travis Kitchen was a driving force in the building the hall and was one of its most dedicated members. Even well into his 80's, he could often be found fixing things around the hall.

All of our nation's veterans deserve our gratitude. They fought to protect the freedom and democracy that underlie all that we do. It is easy to take our fundamental freedoms for granted, but we must never forget that the liberties we enjoy were hard-won and not commonplace in the world. My father was a veteran, and his memory always reminds me of the debt owed to the men and women who have served our country. Upon their return from service, many of our soldiers faced challenges re-entering the workforce, accessing the benefits they were entitled to, and ensuring that their needs were addressed by the government.

Just as in other VFW Posts across our nation, the VFW Post 778 and their members

continue to ensure that those who have served in America's armed forces receive the benefits and support they so richly deserve. In addition, they bring so much more to our community through the variety of civic service their members participate in on our behalf. In establishing Post 778 and working so diligently, their membership has made all the difference in the lives of many. It has become an invaluable resource to veterans in the community.

Perhaps more importantly, VFW Posts brought together those who shared a common bond—those who gave so much of themselves to protect and defend our great nation. Today, as they celebrate their 75th anniversary, the Travis Kitchen Post 778 can be proud of all of the good work they have done. It is my honor to stand today to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to the leadership and members, past and present who have ensured VFW Post 778 has and continues to serve our community as well as my heartfelt congratulations on this very special milestone. As we say in Italian "C'ent Anni," to another hundred years.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS
H. BIRDSONG III**

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of Thomas H. Birdsong III, a dear and devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather—as well as an accomplished native son of the Commonwealth of Virginia—whom we lost on August 20, 2021, at the age of 94.

Born and raised in Suffolk, Virginia, Mr. Birdsong was a member of America's Greatest Generation—an only child who heard and heeded the call to serve from an early age, joining the United States Navy during World War II. It was a call he would continue to answer following the war, a committed servant of both his country and his Commonwealth throughout his life.

A 1949 graduate of Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia—and a recipient of numerous accolades from the College in the decades since, including an Honorary Doctor of Law degree—Mr. Birdsong would go on to serve two terms on the College's distinguished Board of Trustees, including a term as vice chairman. In addition to funding a variety of improvements to the campus itself, Mr. Birdsong's generosity made it possible for several students to attend the College and thereafter call it their own. Further still, Mr. Birdsong has helped ensure the College's future through his establishment of a charitable unitrust that has become part of the College's endowment.

Mr. Birdsong's philanthropy stemmed from his great professional success, rooted quite literally in his beloved home state. Over the course of a successful, 72-year career with Suffolk-based Birdsong Peanuts, Mr. Birdsong was inducted into the Peanut Hall of Fame by the American Peanut Council in 2000 for his "Outstanding Contributions" to the peanut industry. He was continuing to serve as the company's chairman upon his death. As a businessman, Mr. Birdsong was a noted con-

servationist, patron of the arts, and a trusted and well-regarded corporate leader, whose many contributions to American commerce included time spent on the Advisory Council for the United States Secretary of Agriculture.

Please join me in honoring the life of Thomas H. Birdsong III, a Virginian whose legacy of servant leadership lives on in the hearts of all of us grateful for the noble and timeless example he set.

**CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION FOR FIRST SER-
GEANT GENE DAVENPORT**

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of First Sergeant Gene Davenport, U.S. Army, Retired, and recognize him for the Congressional Veteran Commendation. His resume tells the story of one unafraid to do whatever it takes to support his fellow man.

1SG Davenport dedicated 20 years of his life to defending our country, which included two tours in Vietnam. In recognition of these unselfish efforts throughout his career, he received numerous military honors, including a Bronze Star, a Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm, 5 Army Commendation Medal, and 6 Good Conduct Medals. His support of our country's interests abroad serves as a clear testament to his dedication to our great nation.

1SG Davenport has been a stellar and committed volunteer in every one of his communities following his active-duty service. He's given his considerable talents and energies to a broad array of organizations and causes, ranging from officiating high school football games, volunteering at local hospitals, and mentoring tomorrow's leaders, to supporting his fellow warriors in the Marine Corps League and the Leander VFW Post 10427 where he's worked tirelessly to support veterans in need.

I join 1SG Davenport's friends and family in celebrating his selfless service to both his community and nation. He is a worthy recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

**IN RECOGNITION OF PENN-MONT
ACADEMY**

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Penn-Mont Academy in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, as they celebrate their 60th year providing a Montessori education to the students of our community.

Penn-Mont Academy was founded in 1961 by Aline and Gerald Wolf, who founded the school in their home with a vision to create one of the first Montessori institutions in the United States.

Over the past 60 years, the school has worked to provide a creative and insightful education that molds independent and lifelong learners.